



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 08 2015

**Return Receipt Requested**

Certified Mail #: 7009 2820 0002 1759 1681

**In Reply Refer to:**

EPA File No. 10U-15-R8

OFFICE OF  
CIVIL RIGHTS

Carl-Martin Ruiz  
Director, Office of Adjudication  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
541 Reporter's Building, Mail Stop 9410  
300 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

**Re: Notification and Referral of Correspondence**

Dear Mr. Ruiz:

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Civil Rights (OCR) received correspondence on April 13, 2015, from (b) (6) - Privacy relating to North Dakota Department of Agriculture's (NDDOA) mediation services. OCR construed the (b) (6) - Privacy correspondence as a complaint.

Since the EPA does not have jurisdiction over complaints related to NDDOA's mediation services, the EPA is referring this matter to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication for appropriate action. We have notified the Complainants that their correspondence has been forwarded to the USDA and have provided them with your contact information. The Complainants' correspondence is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact William Yon at (202) 564-5617, [yon.william@epa.gov](mailto:yon.william@epa.gov), or via mail at U.S. EPA, Office of Civil Rights (Mail Code 1201A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20460.

Sincerely,

Velveta Golightly-Howell  
Director, EPA Office of Civil Rights

Enclosures (1)

cc: Elise Packard  
Associate General Counsel  
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office, EPA  
(MC 2399A)

Deb Thomas  
Deputy Civil Rights Official  
U.S. EPA Region VIII  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129  
(MC 8RA)

**(b) (6) - Privacy**

North Dakota Mediation Service  
ND Department of Agriculture  
600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 602  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0020